

API Preserve America Neighborhoods Purpose

- **Protect** and **Celebrate** API culture and heritage.
- **Leverage** historic assets for economic development and community revitalization.
- **Encourage** local historic resources through education and heritage programs.
- **Celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month** in Partnership with City of Los Angeles & 5 API Communities – Chinatown, Thai Town, Koreatown, Historic Filipinotown, and Little Tokyo.

API Preserve America Neighborhoods Coalition Mission

The **MISSION of the API PAN COALITION** is to strengthen the image and the economy of the City of Angels by engaging visitors in the rich and diverse heritage of the City's 5 API neighborhoods of Chinatown, Historic Filipinotown, Koreatown, Little Tokyo, and Thai Town.

Preserve America Benefits

- White House recognition
- Eligibility for Preserve America grants
- Certificate of recognition
- Authorization to use the Preserve America logo on signs, flags, banners, and promotional materials
- Listing in a Web-based Preserve America Community directory
- National and regional press releases
- Enhanced community visibility and pride

CRA/LA and API Preserve America Neighborhoods Awarded National Park Service \$250,000 Preserve America Grant

- ❖ **Asian Pacific Islander Neighborhoods Cultural Heritage and Hospitality Education and Training Project**, which will be applied to all 5 of the City's API neighborhoods.
- ❖ **API Preserve America Grant project** aims to build cultural identity and understanding within various Asian-Pacific Islander neighborhoods in Los Angeles and to reach out to the greater community through the provision of training materials and programs in historic preservation, cultural tourism, and hospitality services. The project includes a critical assessment of historic and cultural resources, development of hospitality training materials, training materials for communities to become self-sustaining heritage centers, and provides historic preservation professional development opportunities for community residents

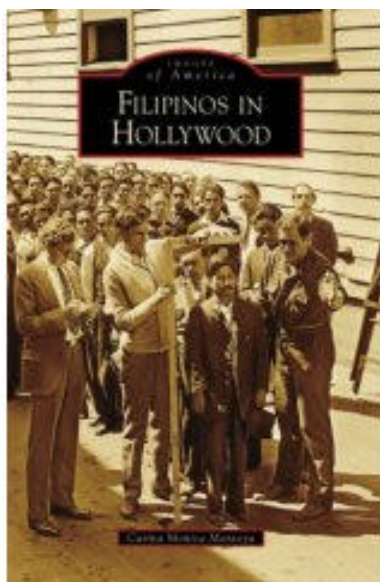
API Preserve America Neighborhoods Project

Our Los Angeles API History



CHINATOWN is an historic ethnic neighborhood, which has experienced tremendous struggle and has historically served as a port of entry for immigrants of diverse national origins throughout its more than 156 year history. Chinatown continues to serve as the historic and cultural center for the Chinese-American community in the Los Angeles region. The first Chinese was recorded to be in Los Angeles in 1852. Chinatown's first location in Los Angeles was around Calle de los Negros . In 1933, the City forcibly evicted the residents

and razed “Old Chinatown” to build Union Station, which then resulted in the 1938 relocation of the Chinese to “New Chinatown”, which today we know as Central and West Plazas in the heart of Chinatown’s historic core. 2008 marks the 70th anniversary of Chinatown’s relocation from its original site at Union Station, and it reinforces the Chinatown community’s spirit as well as physical reconnection to its origins at El Pueblo. The Garnier Building is the last of the oldest buildings of “Old Chinatown” that was exclusively and continuously inhabited by Chinese immigrants from the time of its construction in 1890, part of El Pueblo de Los Angeles Historical Monument. It is only fitting that the Garnier Building continues to serve this unique role in Chinatown’s heritage as home to the Chinese American Museum.



HISTORIC FILIPINOTOWN was designated a distinct historic district of the City of Los Angeles by the City Council on July 30, 2002. However there are four distinct geographic areas through which Los Angeles’ Filipino American community has settled and called home. The first settlement in “Little Manila” from the 1920s to about 1945 in the area of downtown Los Angeles where Little Tokyo is now; the second was “Bunker Hill” from about 1942 to the late 1950s after “Bunker Hill” had transitioned into a poor and working class neighborhood and the wealthy white population to move to newly-built suburbs that prohibited racial and ethnic minorities; in 1959 the Community Redevelopment Agency of Los Angeles announced Bunker Hill as the city’s

first redevelopment zone, Filipinos were again forced to move and as a result of the 110 and 101 freeways that were built in the 1960s, the third wave of Filipino Americans were moved into the Temple-Beaudry area in the late 1950s to 1980, and since the 1970’s to the present, Temple-Beverly Corridor, which is the current location of Historic Filipinotown serves both as a social and cultural center for the Filipino American community of Los Angeles.



Little Tokyo neighborhood of the City of Los Angeles continues to be the cultural and historic center for the Japanese American community of Southern California.

LITTLE TOKYO Historic District is one of seven National Historic Landmarks in the City of Los Angeles. Little Tokyo is an historic ethnic neighborhood in downtown Los Angeles whose history goes back over 120 years and has experienced tremendous change over those years, which include a period of great growth prior to the 1940's, decimation by the forced relocation during World War II, re-settlement after the war, and a present-day threat to its existence due to major changes in the downtown real estate market. Yet through all this, the



KOREATOWN's history can be traced over five generational eras. The first Korean came to Los Angeles as early as 1904. The early Koreans to Los Angeles came as farm laborers and railroad workers. The Bunker Hill Era (1904-1929), Koreans were concentrated in the growing slums of Bunker Hill which had transitioned area to a poor and working class neighborhood. The Jefferson Era from 1930-1950 brought a new generation of Korean Americans who although born here were raised around the goal of liberation for their homeland, but who also came increasingly to regard Los Angeles as their center. By the late 1930s the Korean population had shifted to the Jefferson area, where it became the national center for Koreans across America. The post-Korean War Era from 1951-1964 was a new stage of struggle for LA's Korean community. The population grew with the influx of post-war Korean immigrants. This wave resulted in a shift of the employment profile of the Korean community from physical labor with the immigration of students and professionals. The Korean churches through their continued presence and influence provided the Korean sense of community during this period. 1965 marked a watershed, both for immigration to the United States and Korean immigration, particularly to Los Angeles. This new tide of Korean immigrants flowed into the decaying neighborhood west of Downtown, revitalizing the area and stamping it with their own cultural identity. During the Olympic Boulevard Era, 1965-1992, Olympic Blvd became the center of Korean commercial activity and westward expansion. Within a short time, most of the businesses, strip malls and new shopping centers, became Korean-owned. Neon signs in hangul proclaimed this to be "Koreatown". The Wilshire Era (1992- Present) marks Koreatown's emergence and rebuilding out of the civil unrest of 1992 known in the Korean community as Saigu with a commitment to building a sense of community among the city's rich multicultural and multi-ethnic society. The mix of acculturation has been made more complex by the differing thinking, attitudes, and tastes of those who were educated in Korea before emigrating, those born in the United States, and those who fall somewhere in-between (the "1.5 Generation"). The Korean ethnic churches, as well as a complex of Korean community organizations, have assumed the role of building bridges to the other ethnic members of their community.



THAI TOWN was officially designated as a distinct ethnic and cultural district within East Hollywood by the City Council on October 27, 1999. Since 1965, East Hollywood has traditionally served as the point of entry for Thai immigrants coming to Los Angeles and the United States. Los Angeles is home to the world's first and only Thai Town and has the largest Thai population outside of Thailand with roughly 66% percent of all Thai Americans throughout the nation residing in Los Angeles. Thai Town is an area within the East Hollywood section of Council District 13 that

is a major economic and cultural hub for the Thai Community of Los Angeles with a high concentration of Thai businesses and residents and the site of the annual Thai New Year Parade. Thai Town's designation has encouraged the promotion of neighborhood pride, multi-cultural/ethnic exchange, and cultural heritage tourism and thereby also giving the Thai American community a greater voice in Southern California



API Preserve America Neighborhoods Project

Chronology

- ❖ November 2007, CRA/LA initiated dialogue with representative community stakeholders of Los Angeles' five Asian Pacific Islander Neighborhoods.
- ❖ January 2008, Asian Pacific Islander Preserve America Neighborhoods project, a CRA/LA-Community partnership was formed.
- ❖ February 20, 2008, City's 1st Resolution in support of Preserve America Neighborhood designation was adopted by Los Angeles City Council. Councilmember Jan Perry introduced resolution on behalf of Little Tokyo's application.
- ❖ March 28, 2008, Little Tokyo became the City's 1st Preserve America Neighborhood, and the 1st of the City's API neighborhoods to be recognized by the White House.
- ❖ May 2008, in conjunction with Asian Pacific Islander American Heritage Month, the Los Angeles City Council adopted supporting resolutions for Chinatown, Historic Filipinotown, and Thai Town's designation as Preserve America Neighborhoods. Councilmember Ed P. Reyes and Councilmember Eric Garcetti introduced resolutions.
- ❖ July 14, 2008, Chinatown and Thai Town joined Little Tokyo as the City's three neighborhood's to receive White House designation as Preserve America Neighborhoods.
- ❖ September 13, 2008, White House Preserve America Recognition Ceremony of Chinatown was held in Central Plaza as part of the annual Autumn Moon Festival.
- ❖ September 21, 2008, White House Preserve America Recognition Ceremony was held at Barnsdall Park as part of annual Thai Cultural Day celebrations.
- ❖ October 24, 2008, Los Angeles City Council adopted supporting resolution for Koreatown's designation as a Preserve America Neighborhood. Councilmember Herb Wesson introduced resolution.
- ❖ November 2008, CRA/LA and the 5 API neighborhoods applied for Preserve America Neighborhood grants from the National Park Service
- ❖ November 2008, Historic Filipinotown and Koreatown submitted applications for designation as Preserve America Neighborhoods. Designation status is pending approval.
- ❖ January 16, 2008, CRA/LA and Los Angeles' three Preserve America Neighborhoods – Chinatown, Little Tokyo, and Thai Town – were awarded \$250,000 grant from the National Park Service's FY 2009 Preserve America Grant Program for the **Asian Pacific Islander Neighborhoods Cultural Heritage and Hospitality Education and Training Project**, which will be applied to all 5 of the City's API neighborhoods.

ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER PRESERVE AMERICA NEIGHBORHOODS CRA/LA'S COMMUNITY PARTNERS

CHINATOWN PRESERVE AMERICA COALITION

MEMBERS

**Friends of Chinese
American Museum
(Lead CBO)**

Chinatown Community
Advisory Committee
Chinatown Business
improvement District
Chinatown Service
Center
Chinese America
Citizens Alliance
Chinese Consolidated
Benevolent Association
Chinese Historical
Society of Southern
California
Chinese Chamber of
Commerce of Los
Angeles
Elderly Indochinese
Americans Association
Evans Community Adult
School
Friends of Chinatown
Library
Hai Nam Association of
Southern California
Historic Cultural
Neighborhood Council
Indochinese American
Political Action
Committee
PAMC Foundation
Southern California
Eukienese Association

HISTORIC FILIPINOTOWN COALITION

MEMBERS

**Search to
Involve Pilipino
Americans
(Lead CBO)**

Historic
Filipinotown
Neighborhood
Council, Inc.

Rotary Club

Historic
Filipinotown
Chamber of
Commerce

Filipino American
Service Group
(FASGI)

Filipino American
Community of Los
Angeles

Pilipino Workers
Center

KOREATOWN PRESERVE AMERICA COALITION

**MEMBERS &
SUPPORTING
CBOS Korean
Youth and
Community
Center
(Lead CBO)**

Korean American
Chamber of
Commerce of Los
Angeles
Korean American
Museum
Korean American
Federation of Los
Angeles
Korean American
Coalition
Koreatown
Immigrant Workers
Alliance
Koreatown
Organizations
Association
Korean Resource
Center
Korean Health
Education
Information &
Resource Center
Wilshire
Center/Koreatown

LITTLE TOKYO COORDINATING COUNCIL

MEMBERS

(LTTC Has Over 80
Members. Partial
Members Listing
Below)

**Little Tokyo
Service Center
Community
Development
Corp.
(Lead CBO)**

100/442/MIS WWII
Veterans Memorial
Foundation
East West Players
Friends of Little Tokyo
Branch Library
Go for Broke National
Education Center
Japanese American
Community Services
Japanese American
Cultural & Community
Center
Japanese American
National Museum
Japanese Chamber of
Commerce of Southern
California
Little Tokyo Business
Association
Little Tokyo Community
Advisory Committee
Little Tokyo Residents
Association
Visual

THAI TOWN PRESERVE AMERICA HONORARY COMMITTEE

MEMBERS

**Thai Community
Development
Corporation
(Lead CBO)**

Thai Town Formation
Committee

Thai Association of
Southern California

Thai Community Arts
and Cultural Center

Thai Town Rotary
Club

Thai New Year's Day
Songkran Committee